REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment(s) is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to place them in better condition for U.S. patent practice.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application No. (Unassigned)
Attorney's Docket No. 004101-003

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 10, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-8

1. (Amended) [Use of NO, of a NO donor compound or of a compound able to release, promote or induce NO formation in cells, to prepare a medicinal product intended] A method for the treatment or prevention of a disease resulting from deficiency of an adult gene in an individual through the re-expression of said homologous foetal gene, said method comprising using an effective amount of NO, a NO donor compound or a compound able to release, promote or induce NO formation cells.

2. (Amended) [Use of NO or of a No donor compound or compound able to release, promote or induce NO formation in cells according to claim 1, characterized in that said medicinal product] The method according to claim 1, which is intended to reactivate the expression of at least one foetal gene in adult tissues such as to restore the presence and/or the localization of at least one foetal protein.

3. (Amended) [Use according to either of claims 1 or 2] The method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the foetal gene codes for the embryonic form of the protein encoded by the deficient gene.

4. (Amended) [Use according to any of claims 1 to 3] The method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the compound able to induce NO formation is L-arginine, or one of its derivatives, forming a substrate for NO-synthase or promoting availability of the substrate.

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5. (Amended) [Use according to any of the preceding claims] The method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the definite gene is the dystrophin gene and the foetal gene is the utrophin gene.

6. (Amended) [Use according to any of the preceding claims] The method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the deficient gene is the haemoglobin gene and the foetal gene is the foetal haemoglobin gene.

7. (Amended) [Use according to any of the preceding claims] The method according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the disease resulting from the deficiency of an adult gene is a muscular dystrophy, [such as Duchenne or Becker muscular dystrophy, or] thalassaemia or sickle-cell disease.

8. (Amended) Pharmaceutical composition [characterized in that it contains] comprising NO and/or at least one NO donor or a compound able to release, promote or induce NO formation in cells, associated in said composition with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.